

Message Text

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PASS TO: OED/MEPD AND OIM BREWER/FOR MARTIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, EWWT, VE

1. RICHARD LOWE, INDUSTRIAL PLANNING, SIDOR MATANZAS, HAS GIVEN EMBASSY FOLLOWING INFORMATION: CVG-SIDOR HAS CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF HOUSING FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. CURRENT PLANS FOR TWO 2000-MAN CONSTRUCTION CAMPS WILL STILL LEAVE GAP THAT MUST BE FILLED IMMEDIATELY. SIDOR WISHES TO PURCHASE CRUISE SHIP CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING APPROXIMATELY 2000 WORKERS. SHIP WILL BE SAILED UP ORINOCO RIVER AND PERMANENTLY ANCHORED AT SIDOR MATANZAS.

2. SIDOR BELIEVES THAT THE SHIP USS UNITED STATES OFFERS BEST FACILITIES FOR PRICE AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IMMEDIATE PURCHASE (OR LONG-TERM LEASE). HOWEVER, CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON BIDDING AS WELL AS MARCH 1 BID DATE APPEAR TO ELIMINATE SIDOR AS POTENTIAL PURCHASER. SIDOR MUST HAVE SHIP UP RIVER AND ANCHORED ASAP. (FEBRUARY GIVEN AS TARGET DATE). WATER LEVEL OF ORINOCO RIVER DROPS RAPIDLY DURING DRY SEASON AND BY APRIL, WHEN RIVER IS LOWEST, ORINOCO WILL NOT BE NAVIGABLE FOR LINER OF THIS SIZE.

3. PLEASE NOTIFY POST ASAP IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SIDOR MAY BE CONSIDERED AS BUYER OF USS UNITED STATES WITH
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CONDITION THAT SHIP IS TO BE USED FOR PURPOSE STATED.

4. SIMPSON, SPENCE, AND YOUNG, OF NEW YORK CITY (TELEX RCA 232493 AND ITT 420491) HAVE BEEN ACTING AS SHIP BROKERS FOR SIDOR AND MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COMPANY'S REQUIREMENTS. NY FIRM APPARENTLY ALSO INVESTIGATING POSSI-

BILITY OF PURCHASING DRYDOCKED US TROOP SHIP OR FOREIGN-FLAG
(I.E. GREEK, ITALIAN) LINER. SIDOR ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN
CRUISE SHIP AS SUPPORT FACILITIES SUCH AS DINING AND KITCHEN
AREAS, LAUNDRY AND RECREATION WILL BE INLCUDED.

5. COMMENT: SIDOR HAS PRESSING HOUSING PROBLEM REQUIRING
IMMEDIATE SOLUTION. THEY APPEAR TO BE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING
THIS PURCHASE. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER
TO MEET SCHEDULE SET BY SIDOR. URGENT THAT REPLY BE GIVEN
COMPANY ASAP ON FEASIBILITY OF PURCHASE.
VAKY

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